# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2121
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2006
RE- OPENING CONSULATES IN INDIA AND PAKISTAN
Rathod Shri Harisingh Nasaru

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Union Government has taken up the matter of re-opening the Consulates of India and Pakistan in Mumbai and Karachi respectively before the end of the current year;

(b) if so, the response of Pakistan thereto; and

(c) the efforts taken by the Union Government to expedite the said matter ?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a)- (c) At the Foreign Secretary level talks in June 2004, India and Pakistan agreed in principle to reopen their respective Consulates General in Mumbai and Karachi. Agreement was reached during President Musharraf's visit to India in April 2005 to reopen the Consulates General by the end of 2005. However, Pakistan High Commission has not been able to find premises to rent so far. India is ready to open its Consulate General in Karachi but Pakistan is insisting on simultaneous opening of the Consulates General in Mumbai and Karachi.